REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-16 and 20-30 are pending in this application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph:

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action states "As per claims 1 and 2, the cited 'so that the user can be trained to engage in transaction with another person' in the claims is unclear and indefinite for what its intention is." Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant first notes that this phrase has been present in claims 1 and 2 for many years and has not been deemed to be indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph by any of the many Office Actions previously issued by the Patent Office. The comment that this phrase "is unclear and indefinite for what its intention is" is not understood by Applicant. The entire phrase recited in claim 1 is "an output device for making the output available to the user so that said user can be trained to engage in transactions with another person." Applicant thus submits that it is clear that the "intention" (as can best be understood by Applicant) of the phrase "so that the user can be trained to engage in transactions with another person" is to describe the output made available to the user by the output device. That is, the output made available to the user by the output device trains the user to engage in transactions with another person. Moreover, this phrase is consistent with the preamble of claim 1 which recites

"Training apparatus for training a user to engage in transactions with another person whom the apparatus is arranged to simulate." Similar comments apply to claim 2. Applicant thus requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Bayya et al (U.S. '860, hereinafter "Bayya") in view of Russell et al (U.S. '904, hereinafter "Russell"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art and there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Bayya and Russell fails to disclose each element of the claimed invention. For example, Applicant submits that the combination of Bayya and Russell fails to teach or suggest the following features required by claim 1:

> "(a) determine whether said input is an allowable response to a most recent one of the output messages represented by data stored in the output message buffer; and
> (b) if said input is not determined to be an allowable response to a most recent one of the messages, determine whether said input is an allowable response to a preceding message represented by data stored in the output message buffer."

Through the above feature, a training apparatus stores (for example) not only the most recent question asked by the training apparatus but also at least one previous question. The training apparatus interprets whether a user's input contains information relevant to a previous question asked by the training apparatus if it is determined that the user's input is not relevant to the most recent question. (See, e.g., page 15, lines 5-11 of the specification.)

Section 4 of the Office Action (see the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action) apparently alleges that the above claimed feature is disclosed by Figs. 1-3 and/or cols. 5-7 of Bayya. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. Bayya fails to disclose any type of training apparatus. Indeed, the Office Action admits "Bayya does not expressly specify the interactive spoken dialogue can be used for training as claimed." (See page 4, lines 4-5). Applicant submits that Bayya does not disclose a training apparatus <u>at all</u>.

The apparatus disclosed by Bayya further fails to determine whether a received input is an allowable response to a most recent one of the output messages and determine whether the output is an allowable response to a preceding message if the received input is not determined to be an allowable response to the most recent one of the messages. Bayya even fails to disclose any output message buffer in which the most recent one and preceding output message(s) can be stored.

Russell is concerned with the correctness of a complete word spoken by a trainee against a desired standard in the midst of non-speech or noise sounds. The trainee may

be a child. Like Bayya, Russell fails to disclose the above claimed features required by claim 1. Accordingly, even if Bayya and Russell were combined as proposed by the Office Action, the combination would not have taught or suggested all of the claimed limitations. Similar comments would apply to independent claims 24 and 28-29.

The invention disclosed by Bayya "relates to a method and system for interactively providing street map directions to remote users over a communication link such as a wireless telephone system." (See col. 1, lines 10-15 of Bayya). In marked contrast, Russell discloses a speech training aid which may be useful in comparing a trainee's pronunciation (such as a child's pronunciation) with a desired value to give an indication of correct pronunciation. (See col. 1, lines 10-13 of Russell). Applicant therefore submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Russell and Bayya. That is, one of ordinary skill in the art looking to modify the system for providing street map directions disclosed in Bayya would not be motivated to modify these teachings in light of the speech training aid disclosed by Russell. Applicant notes that the official U.S. Patent Office classifications of Bayya and Russell indicated on the front faces of these references are non-overlapping. Even the fields of search indicated on the front face of Bayya and Russell are non-overlapping.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Bayya and Russell be withdrawn.

Claims 2-16 and 20-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bayya, in view of Russell and further in view of Linebarger et al (U.S. '897, hereinafter "Linebarger"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 24, 28 and 29 disclose features similar to features (a) and (b) of claim 1 discussed above. Linebarger, which is not even directed toward a training apparatus, fails to remedy the above-described deficiencies of the combination of Bayya and Russell discussed above with respect to claimed features (a) and (b). Applicant thus submits that independent claims 24, 28 and 29 are not "obvious" over Bayya, Russell and Linebarger.

Claim 6, which depends from independent claim 1, specifically requires "provid[ing] language training, in which said rules, said words, and said output are in a training target language, and further arranged to generate user guidance in a source language for said user and different to said target language (emphasis added)." Claim 27, which depends from claim 24, similarly requires "...provid[ing] language training, in which said rules, said words, and said output are in a training target language, and further being arranged to generate user guidance in a source language for said user and different to said target language (emphasis added)." The combination of Bayya, Linebarger and Russell fails to teach or suggest this feature. The first sentence on page 7 of the Office Action states "As per claim 6, Bayya discloses language training model for a target language." Even assuming arguendo that this is true, there is no further teaching or suggestion in Bayya (or Russell or Linebarger) of providing user guidance in a source

language different from the target language. If the next Office Action maintains the rejection over claims 6 and 27, Applicant respectfully requests that the next Office Action clarify specifically what portion(s) (i.e., what column and line number(s) and/or what Fig(s).) teaches or suggests this claimed limitation.

Independent claim 2 requires a rule store containing rules specifying grammatically allowable relationships between words of input data from a user, wherein the rule store contains first rules comprising criteria specifying correct relationships between words of a lexical store, and associated with the first rules, one or more second rules each corresponding to one of the first rules but with one relationship criterion relaxed. The Office Action apparently alleges that col. 9, line 61 to col. 10, line 64 of Linebarger discloses this feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees. For example, col. 10, lines 17-23 of Linebarger states the following:

> "Skipping is an appropriate strategy for ATC data, because parsing failures tend to be due to extraneous material such as interpolated irrelevant comments and false starts. In contrast, relaxation of grammatical constraints is less appropriate for ATC data, since few parsing failures are due to violation of grammatical constraints."

If anything, Linebarger teaches away from the above claimed feature. Russell and Bayya fail to remedy this deficiency of Linebarger. For example, while Russell describes a "relaxed standard", this relaxed standard is directed to the correctness of pronunciation (see col. 13, lines 28-29 of Russell). The relaxed standard has nothing to do with rules specifying grammatically allowable relationships between words. Moreover, Applicant submits that Russell only specifies that different standards are to be used at different

times, e.g., relaxed initially and stricter later, under the overseeing control of an adult

operator or speech therapist.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 2-16 and 20-30 are not "obvious" over

Bayya, Russell and Linebarger and thus requests that the rejection of these claims under
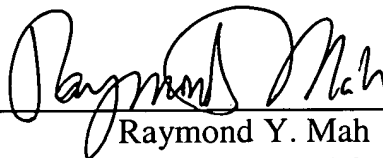
35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and

respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes

that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to

telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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